

PERSONAL NEWS

Objections to Amendments of the House District Committee.

HEARING AT CAPITOL

EXEMPTION OF STOCK OF INCORPORATED COMPANIES.

Argument by George E. Hamilton, Representing Business Interests. Assessor Darnelle's Views.

The House committee on the District of Columbia granted a public hearing this morning on House bill 586, proposing various amendments to the personal tax laws of the District. The discussion was confined almost wholly to the proposition of the committee to strike out of the existing law the proviso which exempts mercantile and newspaper companies from taxation on their capital stock when incorporated. The Commissioners have sought to enlarge this provision by adding the words "and business companies" which, by reason of incorporation, receive no special benefit. The committee recently reported the bill, with the recommendation that all exemptions be omitted, placing upon all corporations, whether public or private, the tax of 1 1/2 per cent on the capital stock, the value of the latter to be fixed by the personal tax appraiser. Upon the request of Representative Cowdell the bill was recommitted to the committee for purposes of revision, and is again under discussion.

Present at the hearing this morning were Commissioner Henry West and Assessor Hopewell H. Darnelle, representing the District of Columbia; Mr. George E. Hamilton, representing various business incorporations; Mr. A. A. Hoelling, representing certain contractors; and Mr. E. J. Stellwagen of the Union Trust and Storage Company and other interested parties.

Mr. Hamilton's Argument. Mr. Hamilton made the most extensive argument, going into all the details of the local system of taxation as applied to corporations and other business concerns. He declared that it was but just and proper that corporations, which by reason of incorporation of by their character receive special benefits, franchises or privileges, should pay taxes upon their capital stock, this tax being paid in the nature of a privilege or franchise tax.

"I do not deny that there are private individual advantages in incorporating, but I understand it, does not propose a tax on the matter of simple business convenience. By incorporating the business is made good will is assured, but the government is not taxing good will as I understand it."

The Newspaper Companies. Referring to newspaper companies, Mr. Hamilton stated to the committee that two of the local daily publications are incorporated and one not incorporated. Under the law as reported by the committee the two incorporated companies would have to pay a tax on their real estate, on their machinery and other personal property, and also on their capital stock.

The Assessor's Opinion. Mr. Darnelle, the assessor, was asked his opinion as to the effect of the amendment in this respect. He replied that if the bill passed as first reported by the committee, the matter would be left in such a condition that he would have no authority under the law to ascertain just what the conditions would be.

Mr. Hamilton argued that the conditions pictured by his citation of the two jewelry firms would continue the same under the bill to propose a double tax. The committee thought that in imposing a tax on the capital stock of the jewelry firms, the condition he would have no authority under the law to ascertain just what the conditions would be.

Mr. Darnelle next addressed the committee. He explained that two years ago, at the request of the Senate committee on the District of Columbia, and under direction of the Commissioners, he had drawn to the best of his ability the present personal tax law. After seeing it operate for two years, Mr. Darnelle said, he had voluntarily made certain suggestions to the Commissioners to perfect and equalize the law. These suggestions had been forwarded to the committee in the shape of amendments.

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dations and changed the law along lines that would work hardship on many persons. He hoped the committee, in reconsidering the matter, would see it to adopt the amendments of the Committee.

Obligations of the District. Mr. Darnelle replied vigorously, calling attention to the fact that the District is compelled to protect and educate a large class of people who pay no taxes. The District educates the children of the poor, of government officials. It protects foreign ambassadors and embassies and educates foreign children. Mr. Darnelle said the District had encountered its greatest difficulty in dealing with the personal property of senators and representatives. He referred to the difficulties in the way of enforcing the present personal tax law in such a cosmopolitan city as Washington, where, at assessment time, the rich people take wings and fly away.

Going Over Old Ground. Chairman Babcock of the committee reminded the members that they were simply going over the same ground that had been threshed time and time again in committee and on the floor of the House in years past. He said that after long deliberation the present law was framed as the most satisfactory solution of the matter. To talk of changing the law to tax stock bonds, etc., was futile, he declared, for radical changes would be agreed to at the other end of the Capitol.

Mr. Babcock asked Commissioner West if the Commissioners would rather have the law relating to the taxation of corporations as reported by the committee. Mr. West replied that it would be manifestly better to leave the law alone than to change it according to the committee bill. There was, however, a sense of fairness and justice in the recommendation that all business companies be exempted. The bill will be taken up again next Thursday by the committee.

To SEEK ELECTION CONTROL. Democratic Caucus at Annapolis Tonight to Discuss Legislation. Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

STATE HOUSE, Annapolis, Md., February 25.—The Democrats will hold a caucus tonight at 8 o'clock to consider political legislation such as amendments to the election law. It is said that bills will be introduced as a result of the caucus to change materially the political law. Among the changes proposed will be one to go back to the old system of registration to have on one register of voters in each precinct, to have the democratic judges of election and only one republican. Instead of two of each party as at present and otherwise to change the law so as to place the party in power in absolute control of the election machinery.

These bills are reported to have been prepared at a conference held with Senator Gorman, and will be presented at the caucus. In addition to the above measures a bill will be presented to restrict the suffrage of the colored voters as far as it is possible to do so.

Gumpers Urges Amalgamation. SAN JUAN, Porto Rico, February 25.—At a conference yesterday between Samuel Gumpers, president of the American Federation of Labor, and delegates of the two Porto Rican labor unions, representing all the organized labor of the island, Mr. Gumpers urged their amalgamation under the American Federation of Labor. A resolution to this effect was adopted by the delegates, and will be voted upon by the unions March 12.

John C. Parker's Will. The will of John C. Parker, dated September 4, 1902, was filed for probate today. The business conducted by him at the time of his death is directed to be sold within sixty days, and the proceeds invested as a part of the estate. The entire estate is devised to the widow, Mary Ellen Parker, for life, and at her death to be divided between testator's two children, Mary Adele Smith and D. Frank Parker. Mary Ellen Parker is named as executrix.

Our Coffee Bill. From the New York Sun. It is estimated that the people of the United States drink 1,500,000,000 gallons of coffee in the course of a year, at a cost of about 10 cents per gallon. The importing cost of the requisite quantity of coffee berries for this supply, at 7 cents a pound, is about \$75,000,000. From this it appears that the coffee trade is a very important one.

Neckwear Sold up to 50c. to 25c., Friday at 10c.

A Friday round-up of all the small lots and oddments of men's Neckwear, that includes Stocks, Jabots, Sailor Collars and Ties of peau de soie, peau de cygne, taffeta and moire silks, in white and leading colors. Former prices up to 50c. Friday, choice at 25c. to 10c.

May Manton Patterns. Spring Styles Ready. Price, 10c. EACH.

Women's All-wool Golf Gloves, in plain colors. Slightly damaged from being in the window. Regular price, 25c. pair. Reduced to 10c.

Remnants at Pittsburg Prices.

Late winter and early spring are shaking hands here. The last vestige of cold weather merchandise is being closed out regardless of cost, and the many remnants of spring goods made by the early brisk demand are yours at fractional prices. The most inviting opportunities of any Friday this season are at hand.

10c. Stationery, 5c. Box Stationery, consisting of 24 sheets of paper and 24 envelopes, including 12c. Lithograph Linen, Papier de Emile, Osborne, etc.; reduced from 10c. to 5c.

25c. Golf Gloves, 12 1/2c. Women's All-wool Golf Gloves, in plain colors. Slightly damaged from being in the window. Regular price, 25c. pair. Reduced to 12 1/2c.

481 boxes of "Holly" Stationery, containing 24 sheets of superior quality paper and envelopes to match. Sold at 25c. Friday at 11c.

Oddments of Women's Kid Gloves, in black and assorted colors. Almost all sizes in the lot, but not a complete range of sizes in each color. Friday, 52c. per pair.

Dress Goods Remnants. Remnants of Double-width Figured Jacquards, Brightened Nun's Veiling, Figured-colored Tulle and Figured Novelty. Good serviceable materials, that sold up to 50c. yard. Friday, 25c. yard.

Remnants of All-wool Scotch Mixtures, 38-inch Wool Cashmere, Figured Wool Challie, Plain Mohair, All-wool Grenadines, French Serge, All-wool Albion, 44-inch All-wool Alpaca, 54-inch Alpaca, etc. Values up to 80c. yard, at 25c. yard.

8 1/2c. 27c. 55c. Boys' Clothing Department.

Remnants of All-wool 40-inch Henrietta, 54-inch All-wool Fancy Suits, 45-inch All-wool Mixture, 46-inch Sicilian, 42-inch All-wool Crepe, 54-inch Alpaca, etc. Values up to 80c. yard, at 25c. yard.

Boys' Odd Coats, Reefers, Overcoats and Cossacks, broken sizes and one or two of a kind; mostly for small boys. 98c.

Boys' Flannellette Night Robes, broken sizes; were 50c. Friday, 29c.

Boys' Corduroy Knee Pants, mostly large sizes; 50c. and 75c. value. Friday, 35c.

Small lot of Boys' Fancy Silk and Satin Neckties, indoor Ties, bows and neck ties. Friday, 9c.

Boys' White Linen Collars, not all sizes. 1c.

Boys' Russian Blue Suits, sizes 4, 5, 6 and 7 years; navy blue, brown and royal blue; wide wale worsteds and serge; sold for 50c. to 60c. out Friday, for 25c.

Boys' Winter Weight 25c. Golf Caps, small sizes. 9c.

Boys' Plain Blue and Fanny 50c. Knee Pants, in chevron, worsteds and cassimeres, nearly all sizes (slightly damaged). 29c.

Broken sizes of Boys' Navy Blue Flannel Blouses; 50c. sold for 25c.

Just six Boys' Norfolk Suits; only size 3 years; Friday, 98c.

Men's 25c. All-silk Four-in-hand Ties, reversible, light and dark patterns. Remnant price, 17c.

4 dozen Men's 50c. White Unlaundered Dress Shirts, sizes 15 1/2 and 16 1/2 only. Remnant price, 19c.

Balance of a lot of Men's 50c. Muslin and Cambric Night Robes, some collarless, neatly trimmed, broken sizes. Remnant price, 29c.

4 dozen Men's White Unlaundered Dress Shirts, the well-known "Fit-well" make, mostly large sizes; worth \$1.00. Remnant price, 25c.

A lot of Men's \$1.00 and \$1.50 Madras Neglige Shirts, some with cuffs attached, neat patterns, broken sizes. Remnant price, 50c.

Men's \$1.00 White Merino Underwear, spring weight; shirts in size 34; drawers sizes 30, 36, 38, 44 and 46. Remnant price, 50c.

Odd Lots of Corsets, Muslin Underwear and Children's Garments. Lot of Corsets of Coutil and Batiste, white, drab and black; medium and long; the Lundy and R. G. C. B. American Corset Co., and Royal Worcester among the broken sizes, muslin and samples; sold for \$1.00 to \$2.00. Friday, 44c.

Four Children's Corduroy Coats, castor and green; also one velvet one; trimmed with blue and white, medallions and buttons; 2 to 6 years. Were \$6.98. Remnant price, \$2.39.

3 dozen Flannellette Gowns and Skirts, in plain and stripes; these are damaged and a little soiled; also broken sizes; sold up to \$1.49; to 39c. close out.

One small lot of Children's White Aprons, with bibs and ties, trimmed with embroidery and lace. 4 to 14; also Gamps; broken sizes in white and Gingham Dresses, Flannellette skirts, white and blue. Reduced to 18c.

Small lot of Ladies' Flannellette Petticoats with ruffles and ties. Reduced to 18c.

Small lot of Infants' Flannellette Sackies, Boots, Bibs, Mitts, Caps; also Ladies' Boleros. Reduced to 8c.

1 lot of Muslin Garments consisting of French Corset Covers, Short Skirts, umbrellas, drawers, chemises and ladies' dresses, some damaged and lace trimmed. Sold at 33c. Reduced to 18c.

Four Fine Zibeline Dresses, fancy designs, all wool, handsomely made; med. 6, 8 and 10 years. Were \$8.98. Reduced to \$3.98.

One small lot of Batiste Kimonos, in light and dark shades; broken sizes. Reduced to 22c.

Remnants of 27-in. Fast-color Dress Gingham, in hams, in desirable colors and lengths. Regular price, 10c.

Remnants of 34-in. Colored Madras, Plain-color Zephyrs, in all colors; Figured Pique and Cotton Voile. Regular price, 12 1/2c.

Remnants of High Grade Linings, including Mercerized Satin, Lustral Cloth, Bengaline, Moreen and Ander's Permaline; black and white colors; 2 to 30c. values at 12 1/2c.

12 1/2c. 32-inch English Madras, in all colors; Oxford and Regatta; good lengths; 7 to 8 yards; 700 yards 32-inch Very Sheer Grade India Linon. Reduced to 93 1/2c.

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Remnants Hosiery. Men's Black and Tan Hosiery, seamless foot, all sizes. Friday, 10c.

Remnants of 27-in. Fast-color Dress Gingham, in hams, in desirable colors and lengths. Regular price, 10c.

Men's regular 50c. Hose, black lace and plain, with colored embroidery work. 25c.

Remnants of 27-in. Fast-color Dress Gingham, in hams, in desirable colors and lengths. Regular price, 10c.

Remnants Embroideries. Remnants of Cambric Edgings and Beadings, in desirable patterns; regular prices, 8c. and 10c. yard, at 33c.

Remnants of 27-in. Fast-color Dress Gingham, in hams, in desirable colors and lengths. Regular price, 10c.

Remnants of Cambric and Swiss Embroideries, including match, left from this week's active selling; usual 12 1/2c. and 15c. values, at 63 1/2c.

Remnants of 27-in. Fast-color Dress Gingham, in hams, in desirable colors and lengths. Regular price, 10c.

Remnants of All-over Embroidery, short lengths; values worth up to 98c. yd. for 39c.

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